AN

ACT

For the more Effectual Suppreſſing of Prophane

Curſing and Swearing.

DUBLIN,

Printed by *Andrew Crook*, Printer to the Kings Moſt Excellent Majeſty, on *Ormonde-Key*. 1695.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND
GIFT OF
E.R. McCLINTOCK
DIX

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An Act for the more Effectual Suppreſſing of Prophane Curſing and Swearing. CHAP. IX.

WHereas it is found by Experience that An Act of Parliament made in the Tenth and Eleventh Years of the Reign of King CHARLES the Firſt, Intituled, An Act to prevent and Reform prophane Swearing and Curſing, hath proved Ineffectual to the Suppreſſing of thoſe Deteſtable Sins, by Reaſon of ſome Deficiency in the ſaid Act.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Kings Moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament Aſſembled, and by Authority of the ſame, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall after the Fifth Day of November, in this preſent Year of our Lord, One Thouſand Six Hundred Ninety and Five, Prophanely Swear and Curſe in the preſence or hearing of any Juſtice of Peace of the County, Diviſion, or of the Mayor, or other Head Officer or Juſtice of Peace for any City or Town Corporate where ſuch Offence is or ſhall be Committed, or that ſhall be thereof Convicted by the Oath of one Witneſs, or by the Confeſſion of the Party Offending before any Juſtice of the Peace of the County, or Mayor, or Bayliff or other Chief Officer or Juſtice of the Peace of ſuch City or Town Corporate where the ſaid Offence ſhall

be Committed, That then for every such Offence the Party so Offending shall Forfeit and pay to the use of the Poor of the Parish where such Offence or Offences shall be Committed the Respective Summs herein after mentioned, that is to say, Every Servant, Day-Labourer, Common Soldier and Common Seaman One Shilling, and every other Person Two Shillings; And in Case any of the Persons aforesaid shall after Conviction Offend a second time, such Persons shall Forfeit and pay Double; and if a third time Treble the Summ Respectively by him or her to be paid for the first Offence.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That upon Neglect or Refusal of Payment of the said Forfeiture, any Justice of Peace of the County, or Mayor, or other head Officer, or Justice of Peace of any City or Town Corporate where the said Offence shall be Committed, shall and are hereby Authorized and Required to Direct and send his Warrant to the Constable, Tything-Man, Church-Warden or Overseer of the poor of the Parish where the Offence shall be Committed, or where the Offender shall Inhabit, thereby Commanding them, or some one or more of them, to Levy by Distress, and Sale of the Goods of the Offender, the Summ so Forfeited for the use of the Poor of the Parish, as aforesaid; And in Case no such Distress can be had, then every such Offender being above the Age of Sixteen Years shall by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the said Justice of Peace, or other Officer, as aforesaid, be Publickly set in the Stocks for the space of One Hour for every single Offence, and for any Number of Offences whereof he shall be Convicted

victed at one and the same time then Two Hours; And if the Party Offending be under the Age of Sixteen Years, and shall not forthwith pay the said Forfeitures, then he or she shall by Warrant, as aforesaid, be Whipt by the Constable, or by the Parent, Guardian or Master of such Offender, in the presence of the Constable.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate shall wilfully and willingly omit the performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act he shall Forfeit the Summ of Five Pounds; the one Moyety to the use of the Informer, to be Recovered by Action, Suit, Bill or Plaint, in any of his Majesties Courts, wherein no Essoyn, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed, nor any more then one Imparlance granted.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be Commenced or brought against any Justice of Peace, Constable, or other Officer or Person whatsoever for Doing, or Causing to be Done any thing in pursuance of this Act concerning the said Offences, the Defendant in such Action may plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence; And if upon such Action Verdict be given for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff become Non-Suit, or Discontinue his Action, then the Defendant shall have treble Costs.

Provided always, And it is hereby Enacted, That no Person shall be Prosecuted or Troubled for any Offence against this Statute unless the same be proved or prosecuted within Ten Days next after the Offence Committed.

And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be Publickly Read Four Times in the Year in all Parish Churches

and all Publick Chappels, by the Parson, Vicar or Curate of the Respective Parishes or Chappels immediately after Morning Prayers on four several Sundays, that is to say, The Sunday next after the Fifth Day of November, in this present Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five; The Fifth Day of February following; The Fifth Day of May, which will be in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Six; And the Fifth Day of August following, under the pain of Twenty Shillings for every such Omission or Neglect.

And be it further Enacted by Authority aforesaid, That the Justices of Peace, Mayor, or other Head Officer shall Register in a Book to be kept for that purpose all the Convictions made before him upon this Act, and the Time of Making thereof, and for what Offence; And shall Certifie the same to the next General-Quarter-Sessions of the Peace for the said County, or place where the Offences are Committed, to be there kept upon Record by the Respective Clerks of the Peace, to be seen without Fee or Reward.

FINIS.